Telephone Connections in J & K

2099. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered and wait-listed for telephone connections in Jammu & Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have a plan to clear the waiting list upto March 1997; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of persons registered and wait-listed for telephone connections as on 31 Jan, 97 in Jammu & Kashmir, district-wise is as given in statement.

(b) and (c) Due to prevailing conditions in Jammu & Kashmir, it is planned to clear about 2000 wait-listed persons during 96-97 and the remaining progressively during 97-98 and 98-99.

Statement

The district wise details of the No. of persons registered and wait-listed for Telephone connections in J & K

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.1.97
1.	Srinagar	15578
2.	Baramulla	868
3.	Pulwama	1028
4.	Anantnag	748
5.	Kupwara	235
6.	Badgaun	451
7.	Jammu	7467
8.	Kathua	747
9.	Rajouri	290
10.	Poonch	283
11.	Udhampur	918
12.	Doda	468
13.	Leh	1077
14.	Kargil	286

Doubling of Railway Line

2100. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress of doubling of Railway Line between Renigunta and Guntakal; and

(b) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The section between Renigunta and Guntakal is already doubled in patches in the following sub-sections:-

(i) Guntakal-Rayalcheruvu

(ii) Kondapuram-Muddanuru

(iii) Cuddapah-Bhakarapeta

(iv) Balapalle-Renigunta

A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for doubling of the remaining section from Gooty to Renigunta (280 kms.), has also been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible, once the survey report becomes available.

High Level Committee for Rural Postal Net Work

2101. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a high level committee to monitor the operation of rural postal net work in the country;

(b) if so, when the committee is likely to start work; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to ensure and maintain efficiency in the postal services in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee is likely to start functioning in March, 1997.

(c) The steps being taken to ensure and maintain efficiency of the postal services in rural areas are as follows:-

(i) The mail delivery system in the rural areas is constantly monitored and periodically reviewed at the field and Headquarters level.

(ii) Regular and repeated visits are undertaken by the visiting Officers at various levels to Post Offices and RMS Offices to assess the efficiency of processing and delivery of mails.

(iii) Test Latters are posted between different stations to assess the transit time taken and the efficiency in dilivery, locate delayed routes and take remedial steps.

(iv) 25% of the Post Offices selected for the Rural Mail Survey are from rural areas. In addition, periodic survey of Live Mails are also undertaken in Post Offices.

(v) To sort out the problem of transportation of mails in rural areas, periodic meetings are held with the various transport authorities at various levels.

(vi) Checking of Money Order Payment by the Inspectors/Assistant Superintendents and Mails Overseers and Overseer Postmen.

Revenue Sharing Agreement

2102. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and the Deptt. of Telecommunications have entered into a new revenue sharing agreement; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features are as under:

1. The new revenue sharing arrangement will be effecting from 1.4.97 and will be applicable upto 31.3.2002.

2. In the Ist and 2nd financial years of the agreement, the VSNL will receive a net retention of Rs. 10/- per minute for each of outgoing and incoming calls.

3. From 3rd year onwards the absolute net earnings per paid minute of international traffic will be compared to the absolute net earnings per paid minute of international traffic in the base financial year i.e. 1997-98. Any difference in the amount will be shared between DOT and VSNL in the following ratio:

   For the year 1999-2000 the ratio of sharing will be 15:85 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

   For the year 2000-2001 the ratio of sharing will be 20:80 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

   For the year 2001-2002 the ratio of sharing will be 25:75 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

4. VSNL will pay a licence fee of Rs. 2.5 lakhs p.a. per average number of commissioned circuits.

5. Surcharge on Super Group was made to Zero.

6. This Agreement will be subject to review if in any financial year or years, the Rs./$ exchange rate fluctuate by more than 10% in either direction, with the objective of correcting the imbalance so caused.

7. The Agreement will aleo be reviewed if VSNL earns less than Rs. 9/- per minute or more than Rs. 11/- per minute in any financial year or years of Agreement, in order to correct the imbalance.

Gauge Conversion

2103. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Saurashtra and Kutch for conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge section into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal is being considered by the Government;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to convert Wankaner Morbi-Navlakhi metre gauge section into broad gauge; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva and its extension upto Pipavav has been included in Supplementary Budget 1996-97. The work will be taken up after obtaining the required clearances.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Gauge conversion of Wankaner-Mailya Miyana and Dahinsara-Navlakhi is already included in the Budget. Work will be taken up shortly.

Applications for Telephone Connections

2104. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for telephone connections as on 1.4.1996 and 31.12.1996, circle-wise;

(b) the number of lines added, during April-December, 1996, circle-wise;

(c) the number of connections given, during April-December, 1996, circle-wise; and

(d) the average waiting time, for the general category, circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The details are given in the statement attached.

(d) The information is being collected from the Field units and the same will be placed on the Table of the Hon'ble House.